

With encouragement from a dear and Bonnie church member, our family has been watching and hatching monarch butterflies. The butterflies themselves are beautiful, but there is also something holy about the process: the waiting, the hiddenness, the transformation.

It's easy to see why butterflies are an Easter symbol. They emerge dramatically from the chrysalis with all the surprise and wonder of the empty tomb. And the transformation from crawling caterpillar to winged miracle reminds us of God's promise of new life.

But much of the process is actually slow. The caterpillars mostly eat and crawl. And even after they form a chrysalis, it takes days before anything visibly happens. We check them every morning and every evening, and usually they are just there: still and unchanged.

Yet inside, transformation is already underway.

I think faith is often like that: God is at work within us and within the church, even in seasons that seem quiet or ordinary. (and sometimes, we need to *take* that time of quiet)

This June, our worship will center on the book of Acts. We will hear the story of the Spirit giving birth to the church and calling ordinary people into lives of courage, generosity, and mission. Many of these stories are bold and dramatic, but underneath them is a quieter rhythm of prayer, worship, discernment, and daily faithfulness. Transformation rarely happens all at once. More often, it comes through small acts of trust repeated day after day.

I encourage you to read the book of Acts this month. As you read, check in with your spirit (the way a child checks on caterpillars each morning and evening: watching, wondering, praying, and trusting that even when little seems to change, God is still at work.

On a personal note, from June 24 through August 5, I will be taking a planned renewal leave. A healthy and encouraged practice in ministry that allows time for reflection, renewal, learning, and Sabbath. I'm grateful for conference grant funding that will provide for pulpit supply during that time, and I appreciate your prayers as I step away briefly so that I may return refreshed and ready for the ministry we continue to share together.

So this month, I invite you to slow down and pay attention to the quiet work of the Spirit. Read Acts. Pray daily. Notice where God may be preparing, renewing, or transforming... even if nothing dramatic seems to be happening yet. The Spirit is still moving. still giving life. Still sending ordinary people into the world. Ready to be released.



Rev. Emily Knight



MENTAL HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

next gathering: June 12 @ Noon
Monthly conversations in the church office library (2nd floor McCord)
Second Friday of every month

Music has a way of reaching us deeply in ways that words alone cannot.

At our upcoming **Mental Health & Wholeness meeting (Friday, June 12 @noon)** we are pleased to welcome **Music Therapist Gina Romeo**, who will help explore the relationship between music, emotion, memory, connection, and wellness.

This conversation is not only for those considering therapy; it is also for anyone interested in understanding:

- Why music affects us so deeply
- How music can support emotional well-being
- The difference between everyday musical experiences and music therapy
- The ways music can foster comfort, connection, and expression

Join us for an engaging and encouraging afternoon as we learn more about the unique role music can play in our lives and well-being.



Hospitality Team Dinner in June Freedom, Food, and Fun Cookout and Games

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 5:30 PM
Join us for at Riverside Park, hotdogs, hamburgers, ice cream, all the favorites to remind us of simpler times, family, and friends! Come fellowship with us and experience the lazy days of summer!

FUN AND GAMES

Your voice can help
Riverside Park UMC
better welcome and
include children and
families!

RPUMC has been asked to help with a study. Discipleship Ministries and the Baylor Collaborative on Faith and Disability is doing a survey on experiences of worship, participation and accessibility (especially for children and persons with disabilities).

Please answer the anonymous survey by scanning the QR code to the left or visiting:

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/RIVERSIDEPARKUMCSURVEY](https://tinyurl.com/RiversideParkUMCSurvey)

“Worship as One” Survey
Congregational perspectives on worship, children, and accessibility



Help Complete our
RPUMC Survey

 **Baylor University**

 **DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES**
The United Methodist Church

Trustees Update: park thrive

Our church will begin, starting in June, charging for parking use during non-church or non-sanctioned events. **Parking will continue to be free for church events to include Sunday mornings, sanctioned church events and use, weddings and funerals.** Revenue from parking fees will be used by the Trustees for parking lot maintenance and other church infrastructure projects.



1. The parking fee will be paid to the church through our vendor Park Thrive via a QR code found on the signage in the lot.
2. Should the lot be reserved for Sunday morning church or another church sanctioned event, an individual not attending a church service or event will be prompted via the QR code that the lot is reserved when you attempt to pay. Church members and RPUMC visitors are never required to scan the QR code.
3. Should a visitor come to the church for a meeting or event that was not pre-noticed, this guest should scan the QR code in the lot and enter the information requested. Another QR code will be available in the church office to scan to be given complimentary parking.

Finance Committee News

The Finance Committee is happy to share an excerpt of a letter received from the Treasurer of The Florida Annual Conference concerning Apportionments. We are proud to know our giving dollars are being used as you have directed them to be.

"I want to express my sincere appreciation to you and the members of your congregation. Your church's faithful commitment in paying 100% of its apportioned giving in 2025 is a meaningful witness to our shared mission and ministry across The United Methodist Church." Apportionments represent each congregation's partnership in supporting the work of the Church at the district, conference, and global levels. Because of this collective commitment, we are able to strengthen local congregations, equip clergy and lay leaders, expand outreach beyond church walls, and respond to human need in communities across Florida and around the world. Your participation helps ensure that the ministries entrusted to us continue to bear fruit in the lives of individuals, families, and communities."



Thank you to everyone who uses the MyWell Online Giving Platform. As its popularity grows, so do the processing costs associated with these transactions. Beginning June 1, the default setting will change so that donors cover these processing fees. However, you may opt out and choose for the church to pay the fees when making your contribution. Thank you again for your faithful generosity and for supporting the many ministries of our church.

Circle of Joy & Peace

We had a delicious luncheon in May at a local restaurant. We will continue one of our missions during summer break: sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our neighbors, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. Our meetings will resume in September.



Grace Gallery

Grace Gallery has a New Exhibit!

Marilyn B. Gallant (grandmother of our own Kaitlyn Fuller) is sharing her beautiful photography with us in June and July. Born in the Catskill Mountains of New York, Marilyn has always enjoyed taking photos. She especially liked photographing her children when they were young. In the 80's, she received a 35 mm camera from her husband Wayne and from there her passion for photography has grown. Marilyn and Wayne moved to Arcadia, Florida in 1986 where her subject matter expanded to include Florida wildlife. Today, Marilyn still resides in Arcadia and now enjoys using a digital camera to take pictures of her favorite subjects- her grandkids and great grandkids. Please be sure to visit the second floor hallway of the McCord building to see her lovely exhibit.



Women in Ministry

The **Sisters of Service WILL meet** Tues., June 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor for a craft night.

The **Circle of Joy & Peace** and the **Circle of Hope** will not meet during the summer months.



United Methodist Men

In May, the United Methodist Men had a fun morning of bowling at Batt Family Fun Center. (see photo)

In June, the UMM will be attending the Jumbo Shrimp game on Saturday June 27. The game starts at 6:35. We will meet in the church parking lot at 5:35 and carpool to the game. Contact Stan Stokes (stanstokes56@comcast.net) if you plan to attend.



The Florida Conference
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

United Methodists from across Florida will gather in Lakeland on June 4–6, 2026, for the 2026 Florida Annual Conference.

This year’s theme is “Faith Rising,” inspired by Romans 10:14–15. Annual Conference celebrates the church’s missional connection by bringing church leaders together for worship, discernment, and shared ministry—work that no single congregation could accomplish alone. RPUMC’s representative to Annual Conference is Dr. Corky Thomas.

More information (and links to the live stream) can be found at:
<https://www.flumc.org/annual-conference-2026>



RPUMC Stewardship Team:

“Lord, make generosity part of discipleship in our church”

Our newly formed Stewardship Team is already at work! Several persons attended a district training on generosity as discipleship. The the team is developing ideas for worship, storytelling, and ministry celebration. We would love to hear and share stories of generosity from our congregation (generosity through time, service, financial giving, or acts of kindness). **Please send your generosity stories to generosity@riversideparkumc.com**



PRAYER

LED BY BISHOP BERLIN VIA ZOOM

PRAYER AS A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE FOR CHURCH VITALITY

JOIN THE NORTH EAST DISTRICT

06/17/2026

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



Register here or online at upcoming events:
<https://www.flumc.org/northeast>



Thank you to our RPUMC musicians!!

Thank you Kevin and Cynthia Round for leading the Bonhoeffer book study!



Thank you, Nicholle Griffith, for leading our 2026 Child & Youth Protection Policy Training



Thank you, Karen Bailey, for the beautiful Pentecost altar! (and the altar for the 2026 Council of Bishops)



Thank you to our amazing tech team volunteers!



Thank you, Rick Devine for making magic at First Friday Friends!

Congratulations 2026 Graduates



KATE REAGAN ELTRICH

Grandchild of Beth Joyner
Graduated from Ponte Vedra HS



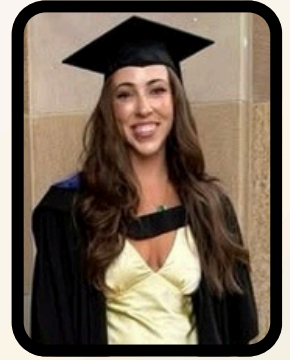
SAM MOSELEY

Child of Kim and Robert Moseley
Graduated from Paxon School for
Advanced Studies



EMILY MATTHEWS

Child of Melissa and Doug Matthews
Graduated from Univ. of Central
Florida



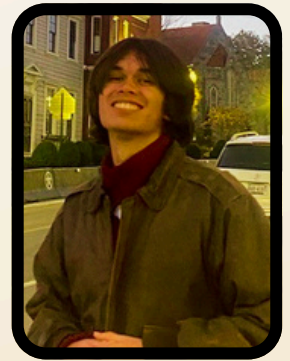
EMILY MARKS MURPHY

Child of Judy and Danny Marks
Graduated from Queensland
Australia with a medical degree



CHARLIE MORREALE

Child of Tammy and Frank Morreale
Graduated from Bishop Kenny HS



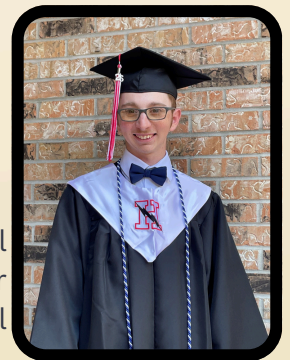
MACOLM REMO

Child of Nicole and Radley Remo
Graduated from Stanton College Prep



HENRY MORREALE

Child of Tammy and Frank Morreale
Graduated from Episcopal School of
Jacksonville



JACKSON RUSSELL

Grandchild of Susan and Fred Russell
Graduated from Hilliar Middle Senior
High School



JACKSON MORREALE

Child of Tammy and Frank Morreale
Graduated from Bishop Kenny HS



WYATT SNIPES

Child of Miranda and Kenneth
Snipes

NE District Shared Mission:



**Dukore “Work Together”
Mwendo
Empowerment
Group, Rwanda**



On Tuesday, May 26, the NE District hosted a virtual mission trip to meet members of our NE District Zoe Empowerment Group. The Empowerment Group consists of 27 households and a total of 83 youth and children ranging in ages from 1-20 years old.

Zoe equips orphaned and vulnerable youth to overcome poverty and become self-sustaining, productive members of their communities. It is a three-year, community-based program that provides the tools and resources that facilitate the knowledge and skills needed for long-term success. Social and spiritual concerns are addressed; sharing the belief that “no one is beyond the love of God in ways which are never coercive but always inviting.”

The NE District’s goal is to raise \$27,000 by 2027 to support this group. Since 2025 The District has already collected \$18,000. In addition to our donations, this ministry and these children need our continued prayers

Learn more about our Zoe Empowerment Group and how you can help on the Florida UMC website: <https://www.flumc.org/zoe-empowers-nedistrict>

A colorful graphic for a VBS event. At the top, it says 'RPUMC VBS ON THE ROAD with Jesus'. Below this is a QR code. The central image shows a winding road through green hills with a yellow Volkswagen van driving on it. Signs along the road say 'PRAYER', 'PEACE', and 'FAITH'. At the bottom, a dark blue banner reads 'Summer Kick Off! June 3rd from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.'.

Kids, get ready for a summer road trip with faith and fun!

Our FIRST “pop up” VBS gathering will be a pool party! Sign up for address information and additional dates/times. We want these gatherings to be space for neighborhood fun and connection.

Sign Up Here to be part of the roadtrip



June 7th

YOUNG ADULT LUNCH

JUST AFTER WORSHIP
(MEET AT THE SANCTUARY STEPS)

Wednesday Ministries:
food, clothing & hygiene items

2,702 free meals served since January 1st

United Methodist Men

Join the UMM for an outing at a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Game.



June 27th Meet at the church at 5:35
RSVP to stanstokes56@comcast.net

MENTAL HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

next gathering: June 12 @ Noon
Monthly conversations in the church office library (2nd floor McCord)
Second Friday of every month



Fuel the Mission

Give Online:  RPUMC.mywell.org
(Please select ACH transfers for lower processing fees.)
—or—
Text "RPUMC" to 40101



Thank you!

BE A HERO IN WORSHIP!
JOIN THE TECH TEAM!

HELP NEEDED WITH SLIDES OR SOUND OR LIVE STREAM

SIGN UP TODAY VIA CONNECT CARD!




New pay-to-park signs coming in June

Parking will remain free for all church and ministry events

FREEDOM, FOOD, AND FUN COOKOUT

TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH @5:30PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

CHURCH-WIDE FUN hosted by our Hospitality Team (dinner by donation)




Our RPUMC Mission:

"To empower others to live life abundantly in Christ."



Abundant Life in Christ

- New Disciples
- Inspired/Inspiring Connection with God
- Community Partnerships
- Active Disciples who Go and Serve
- Deeper Spiritual Growth
- Authentic Relationships
- Empowered Leadership





7th Allison Matthews

8th Mike Darragh

9th Brenda Chapman
Tom Dudley
Cam McCorkle

10th Lise' Dabney
George Ridge

12th Nancy Schubiger

13th Pat Allen

14th Kevin Jensen

15th Kim Mathis
Missy Peckenpaugh

16th Carolyn Sherman
Susan White

18th Cyndi Rehberg

23rd Tami Crowell

24th Beth Harralson
Maddie Knight

25th Marc Julia

26th Emily Rehberg

27th Barbara Bath

28th Connie Hodges
Makenzie Monk

29th Caroline Jennings
Selena Owens

30th Kat Gunderson
Betty Young

**If we miss your birthday,
please let us know.**

**If you move,
please let us know.**

**Do you get our newsletter in the mail? How
about the weekly RPUMC Updates sent by
email on Fridays?**

**Call the church office to update your
information, (904) 355-5491**

June Committee Meetings:

SPR Committee

June 2nd at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees

June 15th at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

June 16th at 4:00 p.m.

Church Council

June 16th at 6:00 p.m.

**PLEASE NOTE: FINANCE COMMITTEES MEETINGS
HAVE CHANGED TO THE 3RD TUESDAY AT 4 PM.**

May God's love surround our members on the home care list:

† **Jennie Bibb**

† **Emory Cook**

† **Jo Herron**

† **Carole Rooks**

† **Fred Russell**

† **Carol Stelly**



All worship services are streamed live on Facebook and YouTube. Please check the website or the RPUMC Family group on Facebook for any updates. Worship service videos will be posted on the church website the following business day.



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 am—3:30 pm
Friday 9 am—1 pm

The YMCA Summer Camp will be on campus from June 1—August 8.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 10:30 am Tai Chi 6 pm SPR Meeting	3 5:30 pm VBS Kick-Off	4	5 Annual Conference	6
7 COMMUNION Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups 12 pm Young Adult Brunch	8	9 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Sisters of Service	10 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	11 7 pm Tai Chi	12 12 pm Mental Health & Wholeness	13
	15 6 pm Trustees Meeting	16 10:30 am Tai Chi 4 pm Finance Meeting 6 pm Church Council	17 Newsletter Deadline 5:15 pm Free Dinners 7:00 pm Prayer w/ Bishop Berlin 7:15 pm Chancel Choir	18 7 pm Tai Chi	19	20
14 Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups	22	23 10:30 am Tai Chi	24 5:15 pm Free Dinners	25 7 pm Tai Chi	26	27 5:35 pm UMM Outing/ Jumbo Shrimp Game
21 Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups	29	30 5:30 pm Freedom, Food, & Fun Cook-Out				
28 Sunday Worship @ 9 am & 11 am 10 am Sunday School/Groups						



"Empowering others to live life abundantly in Christ."



Sunday Mornings in the Sanctuary:
@9am Contemporary
@11am Traditional
Nursery care available.
Sunday school @10am

Worship with Us!



Worship Online:

Facebook and YouTube Live on Sundays
@9am Contemporary @11am Traditional
facebook.com/RiversideParkUMC
youtube.com/@riversideparkumc2015

Church Office: (904) 355-5491 www.riversideparkumc.com

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9-3:30, Friday 9-1

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